

CDAWG Conference A Huge Success

Representatives from six air districts, the California Air Resources Board, military installations and regulated sources converged on the Edgewater Resort Hotel in Laughlin, Nevada for the fall conference of the California Desert Air Working Group (CDAWG) held September 13-15.

Sponsored by the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association, the CDAWG conference highlighted achievements in the reduction of mobile emissions, with presentations on such varied topics as electric vehicle technology, the proposed California-Nevada Interstate Maglev Project (super train) and the Interstate Clean Transportation Corridor. Additionally, AVAPCD Operations Manager, Bret Branks, reported on the status of Carl Moyer Funds.

A highlight of the conference was a tour of the Mohave Generating Station in Laughlin. This station is the only one in the United States using 'slurry' to produce electricity. Slurry is coal ground into fine powder and mixed with water. The slurry is then piped from the Navajo Nation reservation near Flagstaff, Arizona to the facility in Laughlin. Once the water is removed, the coal powder is then converted to electricity. Participants enjoyed informational videos and a tour of the station's small museum before trekking over to the facility itself. Earplugs and hard hats were required, and it was 112 degrees, but after making it to the top of the structure it was well worth the discomfort: the view of the desert from the top is both beautiful and awesome.

The grand finale of the conference was a one-hour boat cruise of the Colorado River. During the cruise, L. L. "Stretch" Mayfield was presented a certificate commemorating his years at the helm of the Cement Industry Environmental Consortium (C.I.E.C.) Stretch has retired to his new home in Montana but will be missed by those who had the pleasure of working with him over the years.

Overall, 61 representatives from 42 organizations attended this exciting and informational conference. The consensus of all was that it was a tremendous success and they're already anticipating the next one.